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OF THE
2016 YEAR
MINNESOTA MAGAZINE & PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION

HOME & GARDEN ISSUE

Community Members
on the **AIA Homes By
Architects Tour**

Celebrating 30 Years
of Care from Clare

580

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ONLINE



Online Magazine



Prizes



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ON THE COVER

Fall brings with it a whole lot of beauty, including the annual Homes by Architects Tour by the AIA. Featured here, a kitchen by Peterssen/Keller Architecture. Photo by Steve Henke Studio

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JUST THE TIPS, PLEASE!



In the last couple of years, mixing furniture styles has become increasingly popular. Done correctly, you can create a cohesive and visually stimulating look. Done incorrectly, your home can feel chaotic, messy, and collegiate (and not in a good way).

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The key to successfully mixing styles is creating balance. For example, if you have a modern palette (which can often feel cold), and you want to bring in warmth, using an organic statement piece, such as a coffee table, is really a dynamic mix. Accessorize an organic coffee table with modern pieces and don't be afraid to add in color, as long as the color is carried throughout the room. Bottom line: mixing styles is very chic as long materials, colors, and shapes come full circle. ■

For more information on how to seamlessly blend styles, please visit Habitation's showroom on Excelsior Blvd. in St. Louis Park.

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OUR LAVENDER

FROM THE EDITOR | BY ANDY LIEN

A Room of One's Own

Virginia Woolf published *A Room of One's Own* in 1929 which was based on a series of lectures she gave that included themes about making space for women in writing, in education, and even just literally, in terms of physical area. In it, she talked of lesbians, she talked of how women are idealized by male writers in fiction which mirrors or translates also to real life. She was criticized for not acknowledging class differences between women and not addressing how race affects class and access for different women. She started a topic, and through criticism, the topic was broadened and made better. It's a difficult process and it is a crucial one.

I think of the concept "a room of one's own" in lowercase letters when I think of things like my own college major, Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies. Why did it exist? Because the topics we covered were not included enough, or satisfactorily, in the general lessons and books and classes throughout academia until then. The topics of women and gender and sexuality needed their own space and attention. Their own teachers. Their own classrooms. Their own degree. Within my classes and studies, I was able to look at specific groups under the umbrella term of women, but, between 1995 and 1999, we hadn't gotten far enough into the inclusion of gender and sexuality to see just how diverse the specific groups under the umbrella are. And, since then, the field has likely been racing to keep up with the changes happening in our culture.

As an important note, I also remember seeing *Lavender* for the first time on stands while I was at Macalester College, since it also started in 1995. *Lavender*, itself, is a room of one's own for this community. It's closer to what Virginia Woolf may have been talking about since it's a collection of writing about, for, and by the people of this community, the only one of its kind in the area. Each issue might only cover a few of the groups that fall in a very crowded "room" that could use some remodeling and expansion, since it's a free publication that only prints as many pages as advertising can support.

If you look at the arc of a year, though, you might see more of the "room" that this community encompasses. Yes, *Lavender* exists in a world outside its gender and sexuality parameters, because a room is within a larger structure. None of us exist separately from each other. But, throughout the year as the budget allows, *Lavender's* room expands and takes space in the larger structure of our culture to become as large as we can make it.

In this issue, the Fall Home & Garden Issue, we feature some spaces that are literally "rooms of one's own." As someone who lives in an artist loft which is subsidized and is to save space for people who choose lower-income jobs as artists, I understand how novel it is to live with people who focus on the arts; it's a unique and unifying experience. Talking about Marshall Flats by Clare Housing (pg. 28), I can only imagine how it must feel to live with other people who are struggling with HIV/AIDS, and hope that it is unique and unifying for them as it is empowering. And as the article stresses, it's because of these actual rooms that people with HIV/AIDS are able to find more stability (and ability) in order to address their medical concerns to the points of being undetectable and untransmittable. How's that for an actual case study for the benefit of giving someone a room of one's own? Stupendous.

So, as we move through difficult conversations and politics, this room of ours can seem both very small and unnavigably large. There are so many people in this room with so many different issues affecting us that it's hard to believe it's all the same room. And sometimes it isn't the same room. Sometimes people leave to find more space, which is part of how intersectionality works with people actually belonging to various rooms at the same time. But we all still live in the same structure together and I am so very glad for that. Let's keep doors open and welcome mats out.

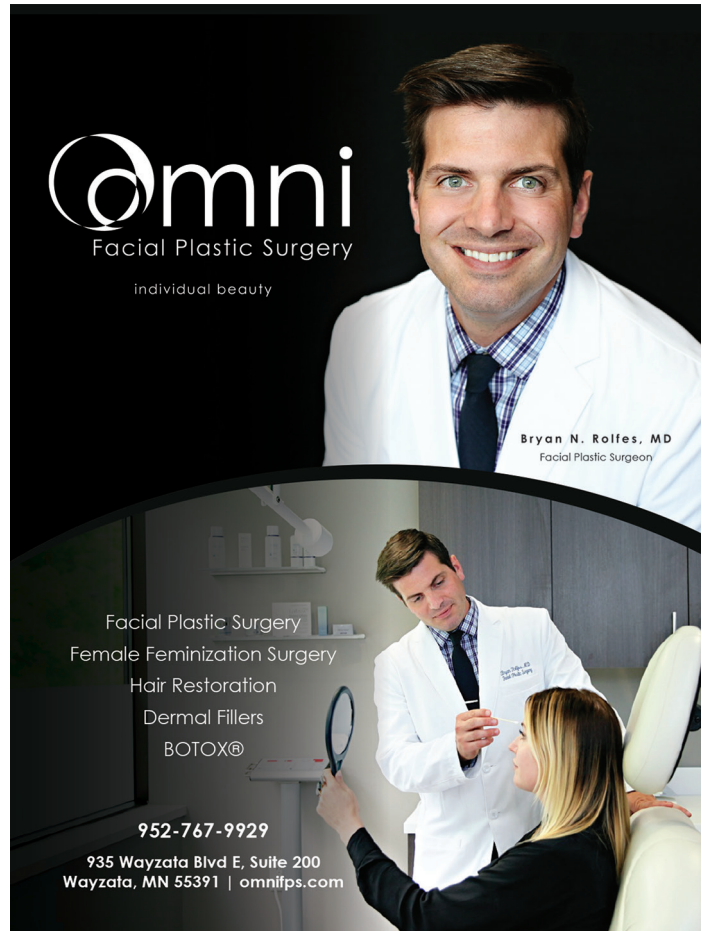
With you in the room and with thanks,

Andy ■



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Living on the Archipelago

How does one process sudden death? The sudden, violent death of a friend? It is a mere five days since I learned that Beverly Cory, working on a sunny Saturday morning in her office in Mendota Heights, was shot to death.

Beverly was a financial adviser with Edward Jones, a member of our GLBT community, and known and loved by many. I don't have a grand sum with Edward Jones—"barely perceptible," at best—but she treated me as though I did. She was, as the news quoted, "the kindest soul."

"Hi, this is Beverly!" she'd chirp over the phone at intervals, asking if I had any questions. I came to her office just a few weeks ago for a consult. I'd decided that at my age (76 to her 48), I wanted to move from slow-and-steady to a plan that, without too much risk, might garner a bit more that I could use while still here. She made suggestions, and we parted with her usual admonition to alert her first when I won the Powerball, and I promised, as always, to call her first—from my new digs on Bimini.

"No man is an island, entire of itself," wrote John Donne in 1624,

"every man is piece of the continent, a part of the main." True, to a point. But for those who suffer loss of whatever degree—and I was not as close or as longtime a friend of Beverly's as were many others—there exist offshore archipelagos of islands, whose inhabitants, while still in contact with the mainland, lead lives forever fractured.

The day of Beverly's death, I happened to be reading Louise Penny's mystery, *A Trick of the Light*. In it, Chief Inspector Armand Gamache must inform elderly parents of their only daughter's murder. "I have some very bad news." [...] He looked them in the eyes as he spoke and saw their lives change. It would be forever dated from that moment. Before the news and after the news. Two completely different lives."

Beverly Cory was kind, funny, quirky, ready with a radiant smile, and diligent; busy at her tasks that Saturday morning when some thin crack in the universe opened to let the darkness in. I have no homily or anodyne solution to offer. Do your best, love and honor your dear ones, but keep a bag packed, ready for sudden, unexpected removal to your private archipelago. It will be a long stay, and it won't be Bimini. ■



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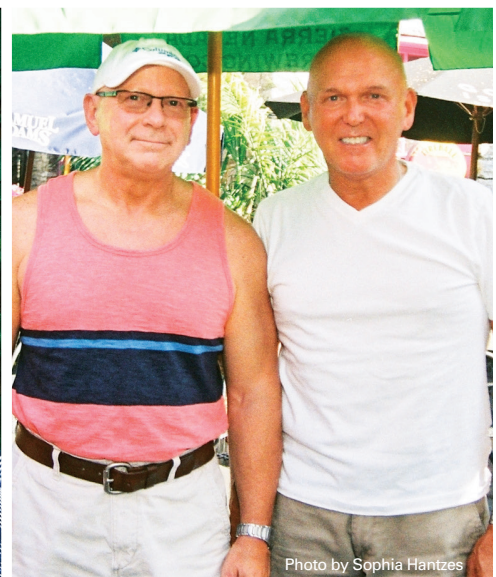
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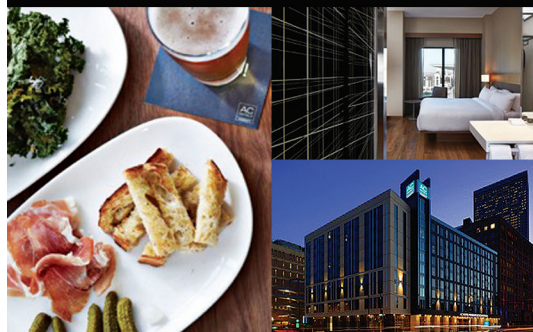
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What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- ◆ **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
 - ◆ Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
 - ◆ If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
 - ◆ Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
 - ◆ Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
 - ◆ Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
 - ◆ Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- ◆ **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.** If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- ◆ **Also take** certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ◆ **Severe liver problems**, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ◆ **Bone problems**, including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

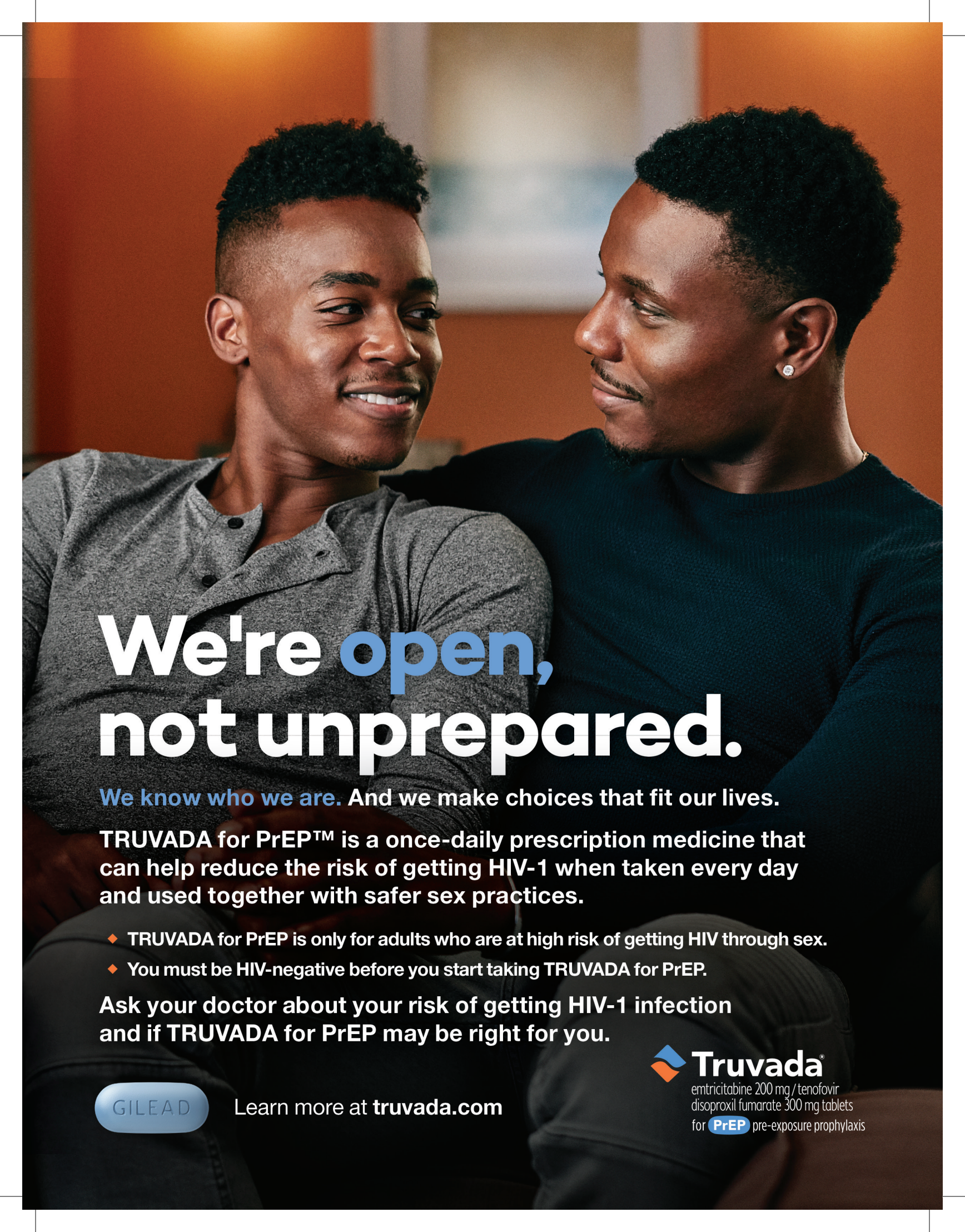
Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.



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TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.

- ◆ TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
- ◆ You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

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Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

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- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the “How To Further Reduce Your Risk” section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP™ (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP” section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.



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Version date: April 2017

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Dunkirk. Photo courtesy of © 2017 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. All Rights Reserved

DUNKIRK

Area Movie Theaters

The 1940 evacuation of British and French troops from Dunkirk on the French coast has been shaped into a stunning cinematic marvel in *Dunkirk*. Filmmaker Christopher Nolan embraces the overwhelming nature of a military catastrophe that rates up there with such masterpieces as Elem Klimov's *Come and See*, John Frankenheimer's *Andersonville*, and Terrence Malick's *The Thin Red Line*.

The youth of the soldiers, shot in gripping close-up throughout by cinematographer, Hoyte van Hoytema, is relentlessly heartbreaking as they endure horrific obstacles crossing the English Channel back to their home island nation. We bear witness to the nightmare of being trapped in sinking naval vessels, the unnerving unpredictability of air warfare, and underwater shots of soldiers in the process of drowning or trying to come up for air only to be met with actually blazing fire caused by oil spilled into the water.

A major thrust in *Dunkirk* is the flotilla of smaller privately owned sailing vessels that actually went out en masse to save who they could of the imperiled men. This aspect is made intensely human as a middle class civilian, played in yet another Oscar-caliber performance by Guthrie veteran Mark Rylance, his teenaged son, and the son's school chum, make their way out of pure patriotism to

rescue what troops they can in their boat with a small cabin below. The horror that plays out on board is juxtaposed with the epic horrors the soldiers face on the Channel. Without spoiling it, these well-meaning civilians encounter a volatile situation that ratchets up *Dunkirk's* breathtaking dramatic power.

FOOL FOR LOVE

Aug. 24-Sept. 16

The Grain Belt Warehouse
77 Thirteenth Ave. NE, Studio 202
Minneapolis
612-401-4506
www.darkstormy.org

Cycles of dependent love, or maybe "treacherous attraction" is a better way to put it, are indelibly rendered in one of late Sam Shepard's finest plays, *Fool for Love*. The turbulence of a man and a woman who can't quite quit each other plays out in a Mojave Desert motel room where the subconscious mind seems to come to raw conscious life. This 1983 contemporary classic is being revived by Dark & Stormy Productions.

Director Mel Day thinks of the old saying "Can't live with 'em, can't live without 'em" as reflective of the dynamic inherent in *Fool For Love*. She shares, "That's the crux of the relationship between Eddie (James Rodriguez) and May (Sara Marsh). Their connection is just as magnetic as it is toxic. This play shows one round of a never-ending cycle

they can't seem to break. Eddie finds May, they fight, they connect, something breaks their connection, Eddie leaves, until they are apart for so long that he can't stand it and then the cycle starts again."

Day amplifies that "the most damaging relationships are often some of the most passionate. Love, in this way, becomes the sweetest pain. It is an insatiable torture. This is the love between Eddie and May. They are completely aware of how horrible they are for each other, yet their ache cuts so deeply and their bond so forceful, it is impossible for them to break free from their tragic union."

Another character figures into this maelstrom providing a mystical dimension, you might say. Actor Patrick Coyle shares, "The

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



Fool For Love. Photo by Melissa Hesse

story, I believe, takes place in my character's head. He sits in a form of purgatory, forced to witness the brutal consequences of a bad decision he made decades ago, over and over, unable to move on until he acknowledges his own complicity which he seems unable or unwilling to do, so he medicates with alcohol and fantasizes about a Hollywood starlet and stays stuck in his rocking chair waiting to die while his tortured progeny heroically battle to break the cycle of family pain."

Coyle adds, "On a lighter note, I get to witness a volatile, powerful, funny, sexy drama unfold every night by terrific young actors led by a brilliant young director. I love my job." Coyle was named Best Actor of 2002 in *Lavender* for *The Fourposter* at the Jungle Theater.

IN SEARCH OF THE GLASS SLIPPER, SAN FRANCISCO, 1974 / PHOTOGRAPHS BY PERCI CHESTER

Aug. 28–Sept. 29

**Traffic Zone Gallery, 250 Third Ave. N
Minneapolis**

www.trafficzoneart.com



In Search of the Glass Slipper, San Francisco, 1974.
Photo by Perci Chester

The Traffic Zone Gallery is presenting an exhibit of Perci Chester photographs that reveal six months of queer life in the time between the Stonewall Riots and the AIDS epidemic in the City by the Bay. These images were taken soon after her graduation from art school and capture the essence of the time and place. This artist is also known for sculpture, painting, and printmaking. Chester is also celebrated for large scale anthropomorphic installations, use of color as metaphor, and interconnections between emotion, spirit, and color.

Regarding the Traffic Zone exhibit, Chester elaborates, "This series began with



We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay! Photo courtesy of Candid Theater Co.

an invitation to a house party in the mid '70s in San Francisco—a city that embraced a broad spectrum of creative energy. The resulting images are ennobling; they document a community in which personal expression, friendship, and theater thrived, protected and partially hidden from view. I appreciate the trust that allowed me to record those moments."

WE WON'T PAY! WE WON'T PAY!

Aug. 23–Sept. 8

**Black Forest Inn, 1 E 26th St.
Minneapolis**

800-838-3006

www.candidtheaterco.com

Italian Nobel Laureate Dario Fo (1926–2016) was known for his concerns about increasing economic divisions. This heterosexual playwright, who took a ground zero look at the underclass, is sometimes contrasted with gay playwrights, Noel Coward and Oscar Wilde, who satirized the life of the upper class, or as some will say "overclass." Candid Theater has an accomplished reputation as a company that delivers politically charged work that has tended toward drama and realistic comedy, but with Fo, they enter new territory: the genre of farce.

Director Jusin Kirkeberg says, "In *We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!*, Dario Fo uses absurdist comedy to heighten to an extreme the all-too-real situation that so many people will find themselves in: 'Do I buy bread or do pay rent?' Fo takes this real-life decision and turns it on its side when two women struggle to hide their bounty of ill-gotten produce

from not only their husbands but the military state. Fo uses comedy to lampoon government with impunity, highlighting the fact that often even the people within authority do not support the decisions being enforced, but continue to enforce them."

WWI AMERICA

Through Nov. 11

Minnesota History Center

345 Kellogg Blvd. W, St. Paul

www.minnesotahistorycenter.org

As we pivot into doing the work of restoring transgender rights in the military, it is instructive to go back a century and reflect on what ironically was called The War to End All Wars. World War I is the subject of a Minnesota History Center exhibit, *WWI America*. The United States joined the Allies to defeat the Central Powers, of which Germany was the ringleader, in 1917, despite a public that only a year previously opposed involvement. However, the sinking of the Lusitania and the infamous Zimmerman in which Germany approached Mexico to be their ally were two straws that helped to break the proverbial camel's back.

After a three-year neutrality period, President Woodrow Wilson finally gave in and the U.S. entered the struggle in 1917. The exhibit looks at the war itself, as well as society at the time. It was a period when women's suffrage reached its critical peak, Bolshevik (Communist) and anarchist movements became very strong, and European ethnic and racial divisions factored profoundly into the whole equation. ■

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OUT NORTH GOES UP NORTH

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Monday, August 21 • 5-8 p.m.

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Dreamsland, Minneapolis, MN
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SpringHouse Ministry, Minneapolis, MN
Wednesday, September 6 • 7-9 p.m.

MINNESOTA TRANSGENDER HISTORY CONVERSATION

Creative Arts Secondary School, St. Paul, MN
Friday, September 29 • 6:30 p.m.

FUNDING PROVIDED BY

Piper Family Fund
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Visit tpt.org/OutNorth for additional information and updates.



Photo courtesy of Minnesota State Fair

The **12** Minnesota State Fair Foods You Need to Eat

2017 marks my 28th consecutive year attending the Minnesota State Fair. I'm obsessed. For the last 12 years (soon to be 13), I have worked at the Great Minnesota Get Together representing my daytime employer. And with that, I've had plenty of time to eat my

way around the Fairgrounds.

This food list goes beyond the cheese curds, Pronto Pups, and Sweet Martha's cookies. There's much more to consume. Because the Fair runs for 12 days, here are 12 foods that are a bit more off the beaten path and worth seeking out.



Inset photos by Mike Marcotte

• Wild Rice Cheeseburger

The wild rice cheeseburger is the first food I'll eat on the first day of the Fair, and it'll be the last food I'll grab on my way out. It's made on the spot with a big hamburger patty combined with cooked wild rice (not too noticeable,

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actually), and served up with cheese, onions (worth adding those on, no extra cost), and, obviously, a fair amount of grease. The bun is no-frills, but it doesn't need to be special. Don't mess with perfection. This delight is available at Wild Rice Confections; you'll find them in the crowded Food Building. Pro tip: enter in a side door you'll find on Cooper St. across from the Bandshell—it'll save you a sweaty trip walking through the building. Before hopping in line, check your Blue Ribbon Bargain Book to find a coupon to save you a dollar or two.

Mint Milkshake

Whether it's in malt or shake form, there are many spots around the Fairgrounds to get some ice cream. The Kiwanis are up in the north and down at the south end, you have the Dairy Goodness Bar in the Dairy Building (formerly Empire Commons), Sadie's near the DNR fish pond (their malts are incredibly good), and the Dairy Bar attached to the Cattle Barn. That's where you'll find a mint-flavored milkshake, which is definitely worth the walk. If you're a fan of the Shamrock Shake at McDonald's, this mint milkshake is a must. It's a refreshing change after a day full of fried food.

Deep-fried Cookie Dough

I'm sticking with sweet for an unsung hero at the State Fair. There's deep-fried cookie dough, folks, and it's a bit of a hidden gem. It's just one item on the menu of a booth in the Food Building serving up gluten-free corn dogs and spiral potatoes, so you need to know it's there. You'll get three balls of dough on a stick, and you'll be good after eating one (or maybe half of one). It's a great item to share.



A Pretzel. Wait, What?

Yep, a pretzel made my list and it's another hidden gem. Available at a stand-alone booth on Liggett St. between Carnes and Judson, these giant pretzels come a wide array of flavors, are doughy and warm, and are huge. Get the cinnamon sugar. Warning: although delicious, the garlic pretzel had garlic pouring out of every pore in my body for days.



Oslo Taco

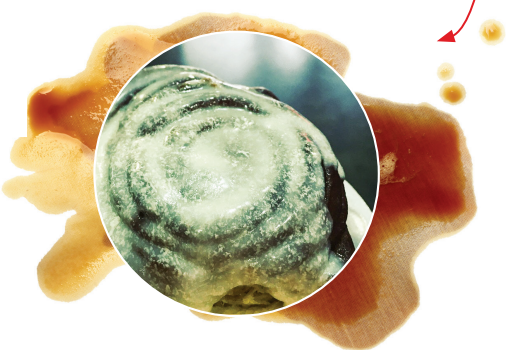
The 2016 State Fair was the first time I had an Oslo Taco from Shanghaied Henri's located on the outside of the International Bazaar. It's smoked pulled pork, Norwegian cheese, a cabbage slaw, bacon bits, and a lingonberry relish sour cream. It's really good.

The Pickle Dog

Okay, you could make a pickle dog at home with some Carl Buddig sliced meat, a pickle spear, and some cream cheese. But there's something unique about the Pickle Dogs being served up at the entrance of the Midway on Carnes. Perhaps it's the quality pastrami they're using. Maybe it's the friendly Minnesota staff working the booth (the owner is from Sebek). It doesn't matter. They give your stomach a break from the grease. They have a Fire Dog version with peppers along with a Reuben Dog adding sauerkraut and thousand island dressing. I would stick with the original.

Deep-fried Pickles

So, I hated pickles as a kid. I would peel them off of hamburgers. But alas, here we are with two pickle-based picks. The deep-fried pickles at The Perfect Pickle (formerly The Preferred Pickle) are fantastic and won the People's Choice Award during the 2016 State Fair. They come in a variety of flavors, too: choose from original, cajun, or a third kind stuffed with cream cheese. All come with a healthy side of ranch dressing.



Cinnamon Roll

Back to the Food Building for another food you could easily make at home. The cinnamon rolls sold in there are huge, gooey, and cheap (\$4.50). Bring a friend to tackle this one.

Wine Slushy

Okay, you gotta wash all this food down with something. There's a wine slushy booth tucked away in the back of the crepe stand on Carnes near Ye Old Mill. Again, it's a booth that you have to know is there—it even took me some time to find it. The price seems steep at first (about \$9) but it's a perfect way to cool down on a hot day at the Fair.

Beergarita

The Beergarita has been poured at the Fair for years, but I continually meet people who have never had it. The concept is simple: mix a margarita with beer. The beer dilutes the sweetness of the margarita, and the froth of both is plenty refreshing. You'll find them at the Tejas booth inside The Garden at Dan Patch and Underwood.

Chicken in the Waffle

Restaurant owner Steph Shimp (The Longfellow Grill, The Lowry, The Freehouse, Bottle Rocket, Mercury Room) has something special going at her State Fair spot, The Blue Barn. Their menu is creative. In 2017, they're introducing two new foods: one, waffle fries with sliced peppers and bacon piled on top with a black diamond truffle oil mayonnaise, and two, a breakfast bake with eggs, roasted chicken, and chorizo topped with salsa, lettuce, and pickled red onion. The food I've come to love at The Blue Barn is called Chicken in the Waffle. It's a version of chicken and waffles perfect for walking around the State Fair, with chicken and gravy poured into a waffle cone.

All-you-can-drink Chocolate Milk

All the milk you can drink for \$2? It's still a steal. And it supports Minnesota farmers. Oh, it's even more awesome because it's served on tap. Find it at the corner of Judson and Clough.

Some honorable mentions:

- The Gizmo
- Deep-fried Twinkies (better than you would think)
- Candied BLT from The Blue Barn
- The Peg Muffin from The Peg, the State Fair's only full-service restaurant

Minnesota State Fair: Aug. 24–Sept. 4, 2017
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TRAVEL | BY CARLA WALDEMAR

St. Thomas Church in Leipzig. Photo courtesy © LTM PUNCTUM

Saxony's Sweethearts

Leipzig is hot. It's Saxony's fastest-growing city (Germany's too). And that's par for the course. Talk about creativity, from art to music to social reform. Where else can you enjoy an orchestral performance in the train station, part of the Bach in the Subways movement? A sidewalk rendition of the "Hallelujah Chorus" on the tuba? Or a concert in St. Thomas, the church where Bach worked as cantor—boss of music—for 27 years (after Telemann turned down the job), also serving as dorm master for its famed boys' choir and composing a cantata for virtually every Sunday service? Fittingly, he's buried in the nave and his statue reigns outside, across the cobblestones from the Bach Museum. It houses his organ console, many manuscripts, the family tree compiled by the composer, and listening stations galore.

Mendelssohn, himself a fan, launched the Bach revival. Visit this composer's house-turned-museum to spot his writing desk and piano, the compelling watercolors he painted while abroad, and a model of the famed Gewandhaus concert hall, where he served as longtime conductor. In the museum's most popular room you, too, can conduct. Choose a composition (mine: his "Reformation Symphony") and regulate the tempo, volume, and performance of each instrument as the score moves along on your music stand. (Unlike Mendelssohn, I failed to win a contract.) His statue was destroyed by the Nazis (he was born Jewish), but in 2008 a replica to honor him returned.

The man for whom that great "Reformation Symphony" was named passed through Leipzig on frequent visits. Martin Luther, who famously broke with the Catholic Church, for which he'd served as a priest, took part here in the Disputation of 1519, debating the differences between his view and the church's. He won. When the reformer returned in 1539 to preach at St. Thomas, the church was so packed that folks climbed ladders to the open windows. In 1545 he came back to re-consecrate the University Church as Lutheran. Centuries later, the Communist GDR government shocked Leipzigers by dynamiting the holy site (now being restored).

Speaking of the GDR: Leipzig can claim honors as the start of the peaceful revolution leading to the fall of the Berlin wall. Regular Monday protest meetings in St. Nicholas Church erupted into a demonstration march in 1989 that ignited the whole of East Germany. To understand

their grievances, visit the former Stasi headquarters, a dreary, dreaded setting of interrogation rooms with no door handles, wiretapping equipment, hidden surveillance cameras, ways to spy on those church meetings, and demoralization techniques to turn citizens into informers.

The far more cheerful Fine Arts Museum holds masterpieces by Lucas Cranach, Luther's buddy, and modern masters like Emil Nolde with his vivid colors. For the art of tomorrow, head to Spinnerei, a former cotton mill where a hundred artists fill studios and galleries, along with restaurants, theater, and shopping opps.


And now for my favorite art form. When it comes to dining, Leipzig doesn't disappoint. Watch the passing parade on Market Square at the al fresco tables of Weinstock, inhaling asparagus soup bouncing with wild-garlic capelli, then—'tis the season—spargel! That glorious white asparagus is served classically with boiled potatoes and oceans of hollandaise. The trout's delicious, too. And so's the spargel at Coffe Baum, the oldest coffeehouse in all Germany, where composer Robert Schumann sipped many a kleine tasse. Even more venerable: Auersbachs Keller, a convivial beer hall where Luther visited and Goethe hung out. (You'll spot it by the statue of a leering Mephistopheles.) If they were smart, they ordered the tender boar served with red cabbage and dumplings as big as my head.

Torgau, an hour northeast of Leipzig, is a town Luther called "more beautiful than Bible times." Lush with Gothic and Renaissance edifices, it boasts a fairytale castle (bears in the moat!) owned by one of Martin's supporters. It includes a jewel-like chapel—the first Protestant church to be consecrated by the Reformation. (Yup: Luther did the deed.)

However, it's his wife Katharina (a former nun whose convent escape he aided) who's Torgau's VIP. Visit the home she occupied as a widow, with replica of her bonnet and wedding ring. Stop for lunch at the café named for her, Herr Kathe. (Guess who wore the pants in the family?) Then visit her grave in St. Mary's Church, which also boasts a Cranach masterpiece.

If Leipzig bustles, Dresden preens. Its ruling elector, Augustus, upgraded it from a dozing town to "the Florence on the River Elbe" with art collections housed in ultra-gorgeous Baroque palaces. All that glory turned to dust when the Allies carpet-bombed the city in the last days of World War II. It's been painstakingly recreated, starting with the

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Royal Palace housing Augustus's acquisitions, ranging from weapons ("the ornaments of power") to royal garb to weirdly wonderful collections of gold, ivory, precious jewels, and, of course, art with a capitol A. The Alte Meister collection boasts all the bold names, from Cranach (natch) to Raphael, Rembrandt to Vermeer.

Nearby, the esteemed Semper Opera House (Wagner's home turf) has been rebuilt in all its splendor (lots of it fake, as you'll learn on a guided tour). A former stable wall now sports the "Procession of Princes" mural, made of countless tiles of precious Meissen porcelain. Stroll by it en route to the heart and soul of the city, the beloved Frauenkirche, a white-and-gold wedding cake put back together from a heap of rubble, in the style of Martin Luther: altar and pulpit in the middle, accessible to all.

Then, for those who wish, cross over to the dark side: recent history that needs to be remembered in order not to repeat itself. A bench on the elegant river promenade bears a sign forbidding Jews to sit. A nearby synagogue has been rebuilt after destruction, with a six-armed menorah representing the six million lost. It stands in the shadow of the former Gestapo HQ.

Tour guide Seema Prakash (seemydresden.com), a trained psychologist, explains the calculated rise of Hitler and what drove the maniac. She explores history's next chapter at the Stasi Museum, housed in its former prison, whose personnel were guided by resident Putin of the KGB. Providing a wider picture, Starchitect Daniel Libeskind has designed the Military History Museum to examine war. He's taken a Baroque mansion and pierced it with a huge steel structure, to show what war does: upset and destroy. Chambers deal with war music, dress (bomber jackets, trench coats become civilian wear), toys ("to buy or not to buy, that is the question"), movies, and more.

Food for thought. Food for the body is happier to come by. Dine elegantly near Augustus's palaces at Alte Meister, a modern setting where it's

easy to overdose on lamb chops in sour cherry sauce; mango-lemongrass soup with duck bonbon; and chocolate-currant cannelloni presented with gin and tonic granite. For a divine descent into grandma's cooking, seek Kurfurstenschanke, occupying a sweet building of 1708, a dumpling's toss from the Frauenkirche, where liver cooked with stewed pears vies with sauerbraten and schnitzel to seduce your palate.

Should you prefer it on fine china, then head to Meissen, an hour distant, and home to arguably the world's finest porcelain. Watch workshop artisans form leaves as tiny as a teardrop, times about a million, to complete a decorative piece, then ogle others in the museum-like displays. Reserve a spot in Restaurant Meissen for a spot of coffee, tea, and hot chocolate with lessons on their origin and status while eating as many cream puffs and macarons as you can manage, all served on the elite china.

This wasn't the first operation. Albrechtsburg Castle was standing empty, so why not install a factory, the boss of Saxony decided, after his alchemist failed to turn dross into gold but hit on porcelain instead. Tour that 15th century hilltop castle, Germany's oldest, then the cathedral of 1266 beside it to overdose on more Cranachs and, at noon, an organ concert. Then scamper across the cobblestones to restaurant Domkeller, whose vista-spanning outdoor balcony spurs many a Kodak moment while gobbling goulash and spargel and schnitzel, all the better for a glass of local Riesling, such as that of nearby Wackerbarth Winery, open to tour and linger for dinner.

Who says you can't have it all? They've never visited Saxony. To prove it, visit www.saxonytourism.com. In Leipzig, where tolerance is table stakes, the gay scene is hot and young. Check out Europe's biggest gay sauna, Stargayte, which includes a cinema and bar, open nonstop Friday afternoon through Monday morning. Or investigate the popular party series Pony Club with its big-city gay scene. Queer night KissKissBang-Bang takes place at Club TwentyOne every second Friday. ■

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Photos by Cary Lenore Walski

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF CARE FROM CLARE

BY KASSIDY TARALA

As Maureen Wells, one of the longest-serving HIV case workers in the Twin Cities, recently told us in an interview, “Nursing homes were afraid to take people back then. Only one or two would take people with HIV, but they weren’t necessarily that good.”

Unlike today, at that time an HIV diagnosis did not bring with it much hope. Many developed AIDS and found themselves needing to be cared for because of opportunistic infections. As a response, friends, family members, and communities banded together to create the first AIDS

care homes, including Clare House, the home which would one day become the Clare Housing that exists today.

Clare House got its start thanks to a number of passionate community members affected by the illness in different ways. All were inspired in unique ways to do this work. For many founders, their interest was very personal. For Kathy Hanousek, one of the founders of Clare Housing, her involvement started with a promise made to her brother John, who passed away in her arms due to complications of AIDS.

Imagine being sick because of a virus

that has no cure, a virus that has opened the door to infections that are slowly killing you. Now imagine the medical professionals who are supposed to care for you are afraid to touch you. That’s what it was like for men and women living with HIV in the ’80s, the early days of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 →

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Project: Peterssen/Keller Architecture; Photo: Steve Henke Studio



Before John died, Kathy promised him that she would create a care home for people like him, so no one would have to struggle and pass away alone. Kathy soon connected with others who had been affected by the illness and were inspired to take action including Sister Kathleen Manahan, Sister Anne Elise Tschida, Rhonda Lundquist, Cari Trousdale, Carol Roeller, John Estrem, and many, many others.

A turning point for Clare Housing and other AIDS care homes occurred in 1996 when a new class of drugs called protease inhibitors became widely available. Prior drug treatments, including AZT, were harsh on the body, in ways not unlike chemotherapy, and many survivors who took those early drugs suffer yet from side effects today. These new drugs were different though, and people began to get better without the damage of debilitating side effects.

Suddenly people were leaving the AIDS care homes on their own two feet. There was no cure, but there was finally a real, viable treatment. HIV was no longer a death sentence, but a treatable chronic illness. The needs of people living with HIV shifted as the prognosis improved. Although many people living with HIV are able to live normal lives with the help of medication, for many there are significant barriers to taking that medication. It's because of those barriers that Clare Housing has evolved to help address the challenges that prevent people from accessing treatment.

The biggest barrier for many is homelessness. Taking control of your health when you're living with HIV means the ability to access medication, as well as the ability to take them consistently. People who are experiencing homelessness simply have different priorities, like where they're going to sleep each night. As Mariah Wilberg, a current Clare Housing board member and former homeless youth, explains, "It's hard to care when you're homeless and in survival mode."

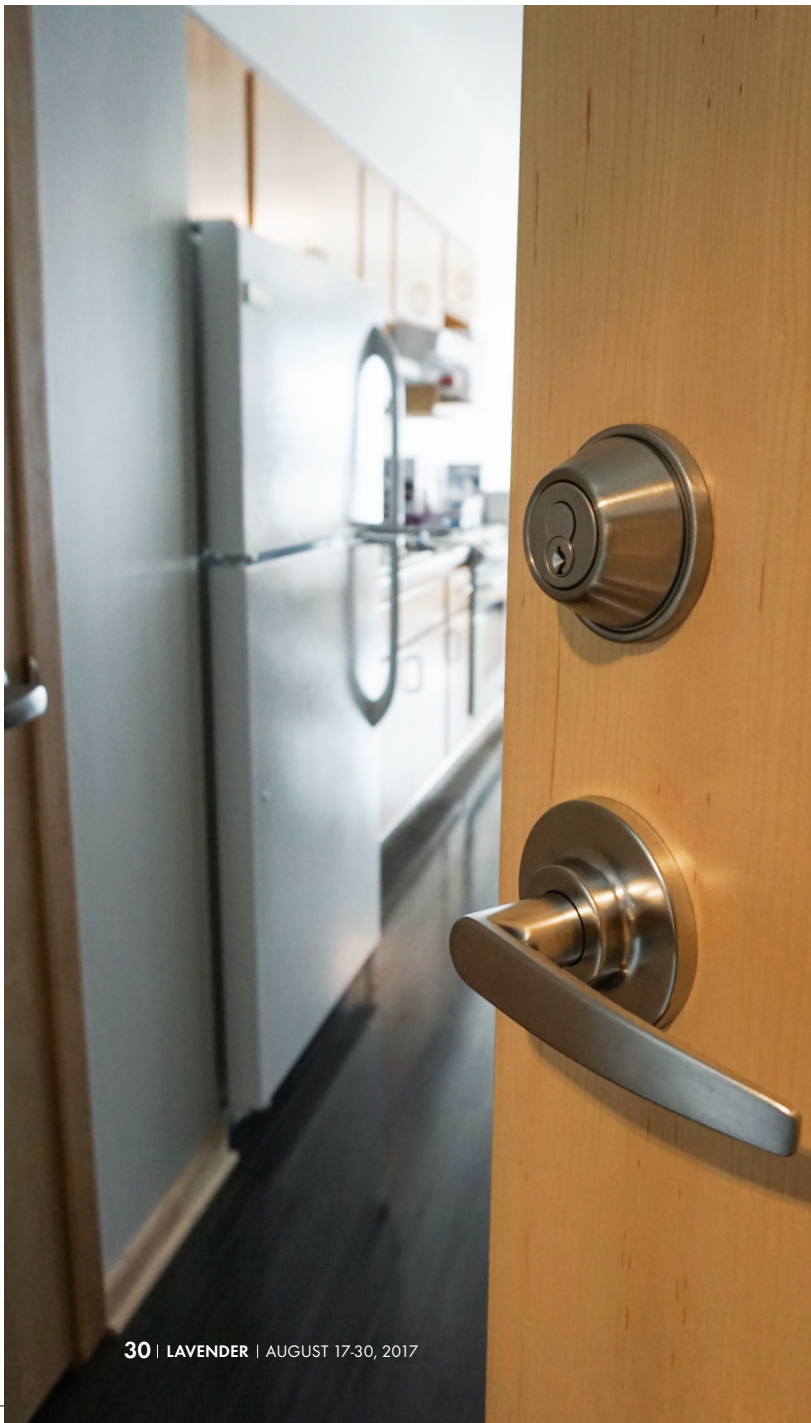
Still others deal with a multiplicity of medical challenges in addition to their HIV. One Clare Housing resident, for example, deals with not only HIV, but also pancreatitis, and brittle bone disease. Still others deal with issues including neuropathy, Parkinsons, mental illness, and substance dependency.

And so in the years after the advent of protease inhibitors, it became evident that there was still a need for Clare Housing, but that the nature of that need had changed. Instead of what for many was hospice care, people living with HIV needed a spectrum of housing supports depending on the challenges that prevented them from taking their medications consistently—from 24/7 staff support in a traditional care home setting, to independent, affordable housing with access to a case manager.

That's why Clare Housing now consists of four care homes, multiple scattered site apartments across Minneapolis-St. Paul, and finally, four affordable, supportive housing apartment buildings, including Marshall Flats, Clare Housing's latest development in Northeast Minneapolis, which opened to new residents on Aug. 1, 2017.

Does this model of a spectrum of housing opportunities get results?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 ➔



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The numbers say a resounding, “Yes.” 87 percent of Clare Housing residents are “undetectable,” which means that HIV cannot be found in their body when tested, thanks to consistent use of medication. Only 63 percent of Minnesotans living with HIV, and 49 percent of people living with HIV in the United States, can say the same. Affordable, supportive housing for people living with HIV works, and Clare Housing is Minnesota’s biggest provider of it.

One of the most powerful things about being undetectable is not only its positive impact on health, but also on the ability to transfer it to others. Today, remaining in treatment and adherent to your medications means *undetectable* = *untransmittable*. This new revelation in the world

of HIV offers an unprecedented opportunity to improve the lives of people living with HIV, dismantle HIV stigma, and underscores the importance of universal access to treatment and care for all people living with HIV. The work Clare Housing is doing plays a critical role in stopping the HIV epidemic, but only if more people have access to healthcare and housing. At the moment, Clare Housing’s waiting list is up to 347 people.

Clare Housing’s mission is to provide a continuum of affordable and supportive housing options that create healing communities and optimize the health of people living with HIV/AIDS. What does Clare Housing mission mean to its residents? For many it means hope. As one Clare Housing resident likes to say, “Clare Housing gave me back my future.” This thread of hope echoes through many of the personal stories of residents.

For one it meant being able to go back to school to start a new career after years of homelessness. For another it meant being able to be open about falling in love with her best friend, another woman, when the staff at her former nursing home made it clear they were not comfortable with their relationship. For the families who find a home at Clare Housing, it means being able to offer a safe home for their children, as well as being able to keep viral loads down so the virus cannot be passed to a partner, or an unborn child.

Clare Housing has been providing home, health, and hope to people living with HIV for the past 30 years. “We hope for a cure, but we won’t wait for one,” says Executive Director Chuck Peterson. “Because we know the work we’re doing can end the virus if everyone can have equitable access to housing and healthcare.” You can celebrate Clare Housing’s 30 years of care on Sept. 21 at their A Place to Call Home, Annual Fundraising Lunch. Learn more at clarehousing.org/lunch. ■



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Photo by Steve Henke Studio

MAKING HOUSES INTO HOMES

BY KASSIDY TARALA

No one understands the importance of a home more than an architect who designs these masterful sanctuaries for a living. Beautiful architecture can be spotted all over the Twin Cities, but the best place to gawk at the most impressive homes is on Minnesota's Homes by Architects Tour.

This year marks the 10th Annual Homes by Architects Tour, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 16 and Sunday, Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Featuring architects from the American Institute of Architecture (AIA), the Homes by Architects Tour is unlike any other as it is the only tour to put emphasis on the importance of local architects and the work that they do.

The AIA Minnesota Chapter is the professional association for architects in the state, and it provides education for architects, publishes the

Our homes are our sanctuaries. They're where we welcome guests with an ambience of warm laughter and chilled cocktails. They're where we make and store our memories, whether they be displayed on a fireplace mantel or buried deep inside a back hallway closet. They're where we return to after a long day in the office, a trip abroad with a significant other, or a night gallivanting around town with friends. Our homes are our sanctuaries because they are where we become ourselves.

award-winning magazine *Architecture MN*, lobbies on behalf of the profession at the legislature, and strives to make architecture accessible, understandable, and highly valued.

The tour was founded in 2008 by a group of residential architects as a way to help the public better understand the value of working with an architect in residential building and remodeling projects and to showcase the high quality homes in our community that were designed by architects.

The tour includes a wide range of project sizes, styles, techniques, budget scopes, and neighborhoods. Visitors can meet the architects behind the masterpieces throughout the tour to ask questions and learn more about the process of designing. Also, they'll be able to better understand how archi-

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To join the tour, you can purchase advance tickets online at homesbyarchitects.org or at AIA Minnesota for \$15 once they go on sale at the end of August. Tickets will also be available at each home on the tour during the weekend for \$20 for a full ticket or \$10 for an individual home.

Read the bios of some of the tour's architects to get to know the stars before the weekend of the Homes by Architects Tour. Among these are community members Lars Peterssen and David Heide.

Lars Peterssen

After instructing at the University of Minnesota School of Architecture,



Photos by Steve Henke Studio

Peterssen opened his own residential architecture practice in 2000. Nine years later, he co-founded Peterssen/Keller Architecture with Gabriel Keller. Peterssen works closely with his clients to find his inspiration for his designs. He frequently draws on his clients' families, histories, travels and other personal stories to find inspiration for his projects. Peterssen also finds inspiration from his personal travels as he and his husband, *New York Times* best-selling author Robert Zimmerman, had a business in Russia for several years. Also, Peterssen and Zimmerman enjoy traveling to their home in San Jose del Cabo in Baja California Sur, Mexico.

Peterssen's architectural style is organic, modern, and inspired by the natural environment. Filled with natural light and energy, the homes of Peterssen/Keller Architecture are natural, sustainable, and welcoming. Peterssen/Keller Architecture will have three homes on the tour including East Calhoun Residence, Streeter Residence, and Bassett Residence.

The East Calhoun Residence is a modern home overlooking Lake Calhoun and owned by a young family who wanted to live in a modern home in an urban neighborhood. The property includes an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) in the backyard, which offers room for parties, sleepovers, and other get-togethers.

The Streeter Residence, owned by builder Steven Streeter, is a modern lake house in Cottagewood on Lake Minnetonka. The Streeters wanted a new home that balances the traditional forms of lake homes with modern, minimal interiors.

Lastly, the Bassett Residence, a relaxed family lake house on Wayzata Bay on Lake Minnetonka, is owned by Katie Bassett, an interior designer and owner of Katie Bassett Interiors, and her husband. The Bassetts wanted to renovate their 1970s lake home to take advantage of the views of Wayzata Bay while creating more space for entertaining guests.

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David Heide

After earning a bachelor degree in architecture at Drake University, Heide performed post graduate studies at the University of Minnesota and the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. He worked for 10 years on historic preservation for MacDonald & Mack Architects and left in 1997 to found David Heide Design Studio, a full-service residential architecture, interior design and historic restoration firm.

Heide's appreciation for history and architecture from the 19th and 20th centuries are reflected in his projects today. On the Homes by Architects Tour, Heide's 1928 Mediterranean Villa-style house will be featured. After the original home burned down in 2015, Heide helped the clients rebuild their home to enhance the design to make it more modern while still maintaining its raw history.

This property saw several floor plan changes including a combined kitchen and family room and a second-floor laundry room. Additionally, Heide recreated the tiling used throughout the bathrooms and other defining interiors of the original home to capture its unique historical essence. The restoring and reconstructing of this home reflects Heide's mission to preserve, restore, and expand the heritage of existing structures while adapting them to modern life and conveniences.

"A residence must evolve over time to fit the habits of its owners or risk becoming obsolete. Our reputation was built by working on historic preservation projects in varying styles, and we continue to be well-known for our expertise in this area. Our knowledge of historic construction techniques and materials, and how to adapt them to modern living, made us a perfect fit for this project," says Heide. ■

Photos by Susan Gilmore



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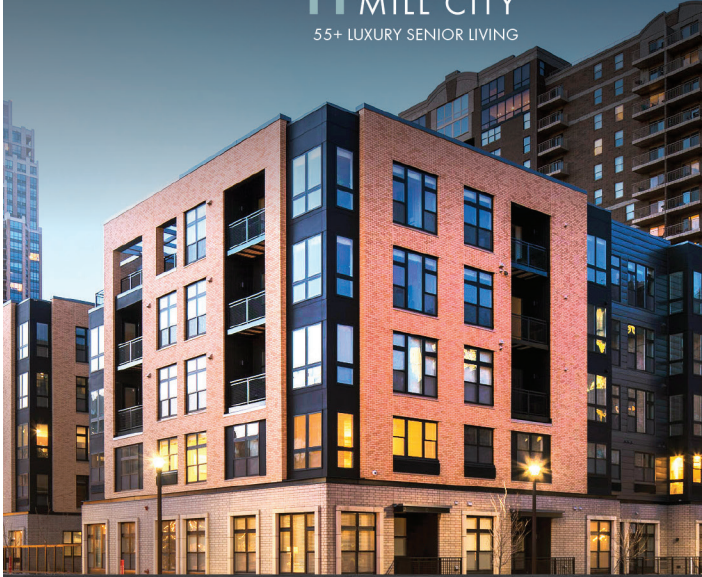
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Is the Queer Community Eating Its Own (Again)?

Recent battles over the rainbow flag and the Star of David have exposed long-simmering biases.

In my almost 50 years of LGBT activism, there has never been a time that worried me more about our struggle for equality than the current state of our movement. It shocks me to have to say that, since I was a member of New York's Gay Liberation Front, the organization born from the ashes of Stonewall. We were the most dysfunctional organization to ever exist in the LGBT community. We fought among ourselves at every turn, and while we disagreed on almost everything, we managed to create a community that didn't exist before. We nurtured it and celebrated it; we didn't tear it apart.

In a time when corporate America and society in general are beginning to embrace diversity and inclusion, our community, which was born with those issues in our body politic, has reverted to words and actions that seem to turn us against ourselves.

There is no better way to illustrate this separation of insanity than Gilbert Baker's rainbow flag. That flag, which was meant from its inception to represent unity of all peoples in our community, is now becoming a symbol of hate within our community. We've managed to weaponize against ourselves a flag that was meant to bring unity. It is splitting us apart on two major issues: race and anti-Semitism. It pains me to say those are issues we are still fighting in our community. Gilbert's flag has become the punching bag for racist and anti-Semitic views.

Earlier this year the issue of racism in the community was raised in Philadelphia. It started with an age-old tradition of LGBT bars discriminately carding people at the door, along with a "dress code" that happened to exclude apparel that was most culturally relevant to the black and brown community. This is not a new act. It has gone on for years across the country. That action led to a citywide effort to examine and attempt to bring the community together. To boost that effort and show inclusion, a black and brown stripe were added to the city's official rainbow flag. This caused a backlash. The line most heard from those opposed was "then there should be a white stripe." The most diplomatic thing I can say about that is that it's silly. It's as silly as homophobes proclaiming after

seeing a Gay Pride parade, "Why don't we have a straight pride parade?" I'd actually call those who opposed the brown- and black-inclusionary flag the right wing of this community.

Now to other side. In Chicago last month there was the annual Dyke March. Dyke marches are held in numerous cities in celebration and pride about reclaiming that word. It had been a peaceful and inclusive event. This year, several women with rainbow flags bearing the Star of David were asked to leave the march. The "official" explanation was that the march supported the Palestinians and was opposed to what organizers described as the apartheid treatment that Israel gave to Palestinians living in the nation. In order to find a seemingly more innocuous excuse, they later claimed that the Star of David frightened other marchers. They further complicated their story by stating that a member of a group called A Wider Bridge, which works in our community to foster better relationships between the U.S. LGBT community and Israel, was behind the flags.

One point debunks almost all of that statement: The Star of David was around a long time before the state of Israel, and when placed on a rainbow flag it stands for an LGBT person's pride of who they are and their religion. There are many similar flags all over this nation, as there are rainbow flags with crosses and other religious symbols on them. None of those flags, the ones with the crescent and moon, crosses, Stars of David or black and brown strips should be looked at any other way than our community attempting inclusion and diversity, and if you go so far as to ban them, then it's a logical step to ask, "Are you racist, anti-Islamic, anti-Catholic, or anti-Semitic?" One fact about that Dyke March that's little mentioned was that some people were actually chanting a Palestine Liberation chant, "From the river to the sea," which represents wiping Israel and its Jews off the face of the Earth. Now, that is frightening and anti-Semitic.

Both of these issues are not new to this community. That racist door policy has gone on for years. Tommie Avicoli Mecca, a former editor of the *Philadelphia Gay News* and now a social justice and housing advocate in San Francisco, recalls writing about it in PGN in the 1980s. The anti-Semitism issue became a battle all over the country, including at New York's

LGBT Community Center.

It is disheartening to those of us in Gay Liberation Front who literally founded the concept of Pride and community centers to see them now, almost 50 years later, being used as battlefields.

Maybe getting in touch with our history can begin to resolve and help us appreciate where we are. The first mission of any LGBT Pride celebration is Pride in us as LGBT people. No matter what cause you wish to attach after that, put us first, at all of our Pride events and all of our community spaces. Be inclusive. We have to work to pull everyone up, not just those in our narrow bubbles. At that very first Pride march we discussed banning people who didn't share our views, especially religious groups, since religion was the cause of so much of our oppression over thousands of years. But we decided that anyone who took pride in their gayness was welcomed. It's OK to embrace other causes, but they are all secondary to our appreciation of who we are and where we came from. We in GLF supported the Black Panthers and fought to free Angela Davis, yet we wouldn't let any individual, group, or other issue co-opt or derail our Pride.

We must not forget how difficult it was to get to and what that word Pride represents. We take pride in who we are because society told us we couldn't. They imprisoned us in our closet, and when we tried to break out, they lobotomized us, set our bars on fire, arrested us, beat us, and even killed us. When we distort Pride we dishonor those who died and stood up for that simple but important word. And that rainbow flag is as sacred as the American flag; you've seen the American flag with peace signs and other symbols emblazoned on it. Likewise, our rainbow flag should be used to show we are a people of diversity and inclusion. There would be nothing more beautiful than a Pride march or Pride parade full of rainbow flags with all religions, stripes, and symbols. It would be an example to those around us, a testament of who we are, how far we've come, and how much we can teach the world. ■

Mark Segal is one of the nation's most award-winning commentators in LGBT media. His memoir, And Then I Danced: Traveling The Road to LGBT Equality, is available online and at bookstores.

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2017 Lexus RC F



I get plenty of questions from you.

It is not all consumer advice questions you ask. You sometimes ask of which vehicle you should send down on Hennepin Avenue during Pride.

Two common ones happen to be centered on picking a personal favorite or the proverbial “if I had the money, what would I buy” question. Not that I avoid such questions, but it does play counter to some ethical and editorial standards.

However, I will make an exception this time. It is because I never actually had the chance to indulge in talking about a favorite car.

Since you were nice in asking, I shall answer...

There is one car that does stand out above a lot I have driven and worked with extensively. It is one that I have put on a track—which speaks volumes about this car. It is also a car that I found that is balanced with a high-performance engine and a design that evokes memory and emotion. It is a car I simply love driving—period.

What is that “favorite” car? It is the Lexus RC F.

You’ve never heard of it? I’m not surprised. It is a performance machine that rarely is discussed in the same Eurocentric circles of Porsche, Ferrari, and so forth. Nor is it included in any muscle car discussion, either.

Maybe my (re-)examination of the Lexus RC F could spark a conversation here.

First off, it is the high-performance version of Lexus’ sports coupe, the RC. The RC alone is a compelling coupe aimed at the likes of the BMW 4-Series, Audi A5, Cadillac ATS Coupe, and Infiniti Q60, to name a few. Which means it has a balanced fastback design with its proportioned hood-to-roof line look, punctuated up front with a more prominent and highly functional version of the brand’s Spindle Grille.

Out back is a trunk lid, instead of a hatchback. This makes it a proper coupe if you ask any enthusiast. There is a retractable rear spoiler on the trunk lid that can be automatically actuated based on speed and brake force. All around the RC F are functional scoops and vents directing additional airflow through the RC F for better cooling of the engine and the brakes. The hood has a “power dome” to fit the big power plant underneath it.

My tester came with a package that included a carbon fiber finished roof and retractable rear wing. I also got the handsome 19-inch multi-spoke alloy wheels, wearing Michelin Pilot Super Sport tires. All of this worked extremely well with the Infrared primary color.

Lexus cabins are designed to cross function with form. The driver gets settled into a cockpit with a customizable instrumentation cluster which its main dial slides over for a second screen with more information. The infotainment screen is up high above the center stack, loaded with audio and climate control functions. The flat-bottomed steering wheel offers switches for audio, instrumentation screen functions, and cruise control. A touchpad is used to control the infotainment screen, not unlike a laptop’s trackpad. Of course, there is the Drive Mode knob; perhaps the most important piece of the RC’s puzzle. There will be more on what that knob does later.

If you have ever raced a car, you may be familiar with the kind of seating that is in the RC F. High-back buckets are thinly constructed, yet upholstered with a nice set of hides. The bolstering is thick and deep, yet compliant for thicker bodies like mine. You do not seek comfort behind the wheel in an RC F—you need to be locked in and be at full attention when piloting this beast. Headrests are given extra cushioning for better anti-whiplash protection.

The large single-dial instrument binnacle is familiar to those of us who regularly drive the F-Sport versions of a few Lexuses. In the RC F, the same dial is stationary with the TFT tachometer reading for transmission position and speed. There is another dial to the right, a speedometer. It is small, which makes looking at the center dial a better option. To the left is a TFT information screen with all of the vehicle information necessary to make for competent piloting of the RC F. Gauges are TFT readouts and there are two small indicators for the Drive Mode and the available Torque Vectoring Differential.

The rest of the interior is mainly from the RC. That is unless you look at the carbon fiber trim, the blue stitching, and the F badge on the lower part of the steering wheel. A Mark Levinson audio system

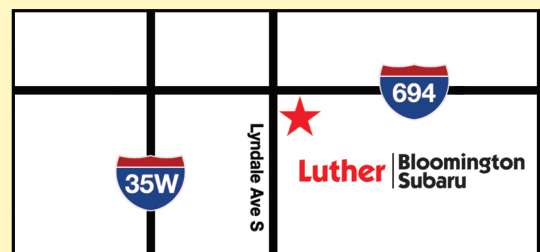
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is available to add to the soundtrack that is provided by the four-port exhaust system in the back.

When driving a car such as the Lexus RC F, practicality is not one of the things that come to mind. But, you can take enough luggage for a weekend away at Brainerd or Road America...or, to a romantic getaway somewhere...and stow it in its 10.4-cubic foot trunk.

That huge power dome up front has something lurking underneath it. It is a 5.0-liter V8 with 467 horsepower and 389 pound-feet of torque. An eight-speed automatic sends power to the back...the only configuration available on the RC F. For better gear selection control, there are paddle shifters; one of two ways to work the gears. The other would be to throw the gear lever to the left and shift between the gears that way.

If we have to talk about fuel economy, I averaged 19.4 MPG. Just a little over the average stated on the sticker.

I mentioned the Drive Mode knob and the Torque Vectoring Differential button on the console. Lexus drivers know about this knob, but I need to make a point here. Eco is not a setting you want to put the RC F in. Normal is fine enough. Even better, you need to flip the knob to the right twice for Sport S+. Sport S+ is where the RC F needs to be with a combination of aggressive shift points, a heavier steering feel, and firmer dampers. The TVD button has three settings to work with: Standard, Slalom, and Track. If you are just carving up a windy road, keep it in Standard. You could put it into Slalom, but it might think you're looking for an autocross course. However, I would save Track mode for the off time you will find yourself on some motorsports venue.

Driving the RC F is not for the meek. You have to be able to manage a 467-horsepower, rear-wheel drive 3,958-pound beast. But, honestly, it is rather easy to do. There is nothing complicated in setting up the car

for what you want it to do. It takes a button, a knob, two pedals, a gear lever, and/or a pair of paddle shifters. Adjustments are made on the fly, but I would consider setting up the Drive Mode and TVD before you do something more involved, such as a track day.

One thing you will notice in the RC F is its sure-footedness. Even in Normal mode, the RC F responds to quick maneuvers to avoid getting into trouble. The steering setup is quick and precise. Wheel feel and reaction is good, even better in Sport S+.

One thing you will have to give up in the RC F is complete serenity. This is not exactly a quiet cruiser. The RC F sounds and feels as if it is always ready to go. I don't mind that at all. In fact, I absolutely love it!

Stopping power is good. Brembo supplies the stopping power with six-piston calipers on a 14.9-inch vented set of front discs. The vented rear discs measure out to 13.5 inches with four-piston Brembo calipers making the stops. Big rotors mean big power on stops. Normal and panic stops are done with full power from the master cylinder onto to the Brembo calipers.

The RC F starts with a base price of \$62,400. This fully loaded tester came with a sticker price of \$80,839.

There is a question that remains to be answered: is this still my favorite car? I can confirm that the Lexus RC F is indeed one of the finest pleasures in driving ever. To say it is a "favorite" is still considered unprofessional in my business, let alone showing bias and skirting on ethical hot water. But...in this case...the RC F remains a car I love driving no matter the condition and setting.

Let me turn the tables here. Should the Lexus RC F be *your* favorite car? If you want a premium high-performance sports coupe with fine driving manners and controlled dramatics...then, maybe it should be your favorite car. ■

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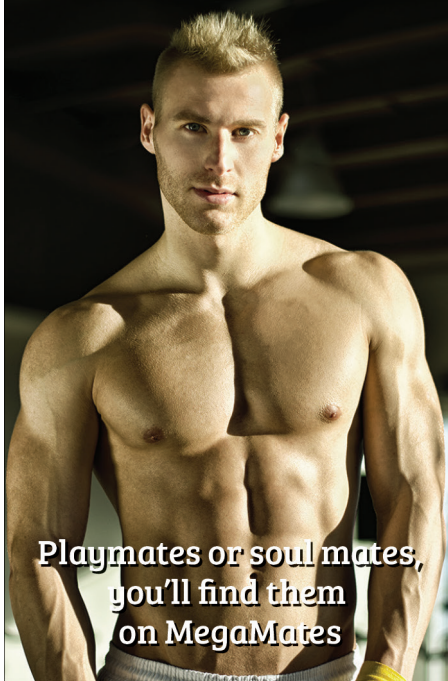
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Total Eclipse of My Heart

I'm writing this a few weeks before our world goes dark. A total solar eclipse will slide on a narrow path across the beltline of this country in late August.

When you are in the path of totality, the sun will be completely obstructed by the moon for a few moments. This darkness at noon will confuse animals. As the moon dims the sun, animals that are active during the day will scurry to their nests, thinking it's bedtime. Nighttime creatures will stretch and come to life. And then, as the ball of fire rises above the massive rock, life will return to normal. Robins will hop to the ground to hunt for worms. Owls will retreat to their beds.

You will be able to witness the eclipse from most parts of the country. But to experience the total eclipse most people will have to travel to remote regions that are in the path of totality.

I, unfortunately, will be one of those people.

Why? Because I am now a parent, and as a parent it is apparently my duty to spend many hours in a car battling soul-crushing traffic to see the sun go dark for a few minutes. As a parent, it is incumbent on you to force your kids—who are already threatening to kill you for imprisoning them in a car on one of their final days of summer break—to have “experiences.”

While I agree with this in principle, I'm desperately searching for a loophole in the parenting handbook that relieves you of your “teachable moments” responsibilities if those moments involve being locked in a car with teenagers for over six hours.

My spouse, who is a wonderful and patient mom, is insisting we drive 10 hours to the path of totality to watch the eclipse. My initial reaction

was to remind her that we see the sun go dark every damn day. “Plus, we aren't even allowed to look at it,” I reminded her. “It will burn our eyes to cinders or turn us into salt or something terrible like that if we stare at it. Can't we just watch it on the news? Or turn the kitchen light off for a few minutes and pretend it's the sun?”

“We're going,” she said firmly. “It's for the children. They need to have this experience. They might not appreciate it now, but they will when they're older.”

I remember my mother saying the same thing when we were kids. She said it when we took our first trip to Washington, DC. We made our parents' lives a living hell on that trip, whining nonstop about how we wanted to be in the hotel pool and not in museums. She said it when she made us stand in line for five hours to see the King Tut exhibit. We dragged her through the exhibit in less than 10 minutes to get her to our preferred destination: the museum snack shop.

There are very few “experiences” that my parents forced on us that were not met with full-out rebellion. Yet, they are the moments I remember best from my childhood. Now, as an adult, I realize that each of those experiences must have been absolute misery for them. Yet, they kept trying.

That's the great thing about having kids. It makes you rethink your own parents and appreciate them in a new way.

So, when we sat down the kids to give them the bad news about the eclipse trip, I took the lead. “You'll hate us for it now, but when you grow up, you'll realize what jerks you were and it will make you like us better. Plus, it will be really cool to see the animals freak out.” ■



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COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Community Connection brings visibility to local GLBT-friendly non-profit organizations. To reserve your listing in Community Connection, call 612-436-4698 or email advertising@lavendermagazine.com.

ADVOCACY

Rainbow Health Initiative

Committed to advancing the health and wellness of LGBTQ communities through research, education and advocacy. 2021 E. Hennepin Ave., Ste. 220 Minneapolis, MN 55413 (612) 206-3180 www.rainbowhealth.org

AIDS/HIV INFO & TREATMENT

Aliveness Project, The

Community Center for Individuals Living with HIV/AIDS – On-site Meals, Food Shelf and Supportive Services. 3808 Nicollet Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55409 (612) 824-LIFE (5433) www.aliveness.org

Minnesota AIDS Project AIDSLINE

Statewide referral service for HIV information & resources including testing, care services, education around PrEP. 2577 Territorial Road St. Paul, MN 55114 Metro: (612) 373-2437 Statewide: (800) 248-2437 mapaidslines@mnaidslinesproject.org www.mnaidslinesproject.org

U of MN HIV Research Studies

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BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

Twin Cities Quorum

Your GLBTQA chamber of commerce working to invigorate, build & partner for a diverse business community. 18 N. 12th St., Ste. 3606 Minneapolis, MN 55403 (612) 460-8153 www.twincitiesquorum.com

EVENT VENUES

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NAMI Minnesota

(National Alliance on Mental Illness) Providing free classes and peer support groups for people affected by mental illnesses. 800 Transfer Rd. #31 St. Paul, MN 55114 (651) 645-2948 www.namihelps.org

Red Door Clinic

Sexual health care for all people. Confidential tests and treatment in a safe, caring setting. 525 Portland Ave S., 4th Floor Minneapolis, MN 55405 (612) 543-5555 Reddoorclinic.org

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Quatrefoil Library

Your GLBT Library with stacks of DVDs, books, and magazines. Check out our online catalogue. 1220 E. Lake St. Minneapolis, MN 55407 (612) 729-2543 www.qlibrary.org

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Twin Cities Public Television

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Weisman Art Museum

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MUSIC

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PERFORMING ARTS

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Children's Theatre Company creates theatre that educates, challenges and inspires. Values: Imagination, Excellence, Respect, Inclusion. 2400 3rd Ave. S Minneapolis, MN 55404 (612) 874-0400 <http://www.childrenstheatre.org>

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Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

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First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis
A tradition of forward-thinking humanism at home in the here and now. 900 Mt. Curve Minneapolis, MN 55403 (612) 377-6608 www.firstunitarian.org

First Christian Church

Come explore, be curious, and ask questions... a place where ALL are truly welcome. 610 W. 28th St. Minneapolis, MN 55408 (612) 870-1868 www.fcminneapolis.org

Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis

Spiritual, Loving, Relevant, Transforming. Find us on Facebook and Twitter 1900 Nicollet Ave. at Franklin Minneapolis, MN (612) 871-7400 www.plymouth.org

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

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United Methodist Reconciling Churches

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